Subject: Collection of WWI commemorative medals

Welch, W. Marriott
[Boston, MA]

1931

TENNIS & RACQUET CLUB,

BOYLSTON STREET.

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 56th Street
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

As a result of a recent talk while at luncheon with Dr. Malcolm Storer of Boston, I am writing you relative to a very large collection of commemorative medals of the Great War begun in 1914 with a few French and Allied medals.

About 1920, at the request of Mr. Lane, then Librarian of the Widener Library, Harvard College, Cambridge, I placed the collection on exposition in the Treasure room where it received considerable attention and remained for several years, due, no doubt, to its being a unique and artistic history of events during the entire war.

It had been Mr. Lane's wish to have the collection remain in the possession of the College, and he had various plans as to its purchase by some Harvard man as a memorial, but since his death I have doubts as to the possibility of carrying out his original sug-

gestion.

The collection now is in storage at the Library, and consists, as I recall, of about 2,000 pieces of silver, copper, bronze, iron, and one of gold. By far the larger number came from Germany and Austria. The collection is so unique that it would be a pity, unless absolutely necessary, to break it up, and for that reason Dr. Storer thought perhaps you might know of some one who might be interested in it as an entire collection, and under those conditions I should be very glad to consider any reasonable reduction from the original cost of about $10,000. If this is not possible, I will have to break it up, and would greatly appreciate if you could give me some information as to what would be the better way to undertake this from a financial point of view.

Thanking you for your interest, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

W Marriott Welch

WMW:DS

April 22, 1931

April 27,1931

My dear Mr.Welch:

Replying to your letter of the 22nd, I know of no one or of any institution hereabouts that would be interested in your collection of war medals. The only possible purchaser of such a collectiom might be either the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace, or some one of the colleges that has been making a specialty of World War material At the moment I do not know which one, but I think Ann Arbor and one of the California universities are doing this. Otherwise you would probably have to put the collection up for auction, and as far as my observations go this subject is pretty nearly dead from a numismatic standpoint. If you are obliged to sell at auction or through a dealer, the only ones I could recommend would be Mr. Wayte Raymond, 465 Park Avenue, New York City, and Mr. J. Schulman, Keizergracht 448, Amsterdam, Holland.

Regretting that I cannot be more specific, I am,

Very truly yours,

Curator

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May 8, 1931

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
The American Numismatic Society
Broadway, between 155th & 156th Streets
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your letter of April 27 and the suggestions which you so kindly made.

I am planning to write to the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace and Ann Harbor. Should you by chance hear of any one who might be interested I should greatly appreciate your letting me know.

Again many thanks for your help.

Very truly yours,

W Marriott Welch

WMW:DS